Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-66 (canceled)

Claim 67: (currently amended): A portal for a private network exchange having multiple service providers, comprising an authentication resource configured to:

receive a request to log into the private network exchange ~~through a secure gateway~~;

access a profile of a user associated with the request;

authenticate the user associated with the request to a plurality of applications associated with the private network exchange;

receive a selected application of the plurality of applications; and

send data representing an authorization of the user to access the plurality of applications to the selected application,

wherein the portal is not visible to the Internet,

wherein the request to log into the private network exchange is received from a first company through a first service provider of the multiple server providers,

wherein the data representing the authorization of the user to access the plurality of applications is sent to the selected application through a second service provider of the multiple service providers, the first service provider being different from the second service provider.

Claim 68 (withdrawn): The portal of claim 67, the portal further comprising a collaboration space configured to allow for document sharing and storage between multiple users of a group.

Claim 69 (withdrawn): The portal of claim 68, wherein the collaboration space is further configured to allow for messaging between the multiple users of the group.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The portal of claim 67, wherein the profile includes service authorizations representative of services to which the user is authorized to access and groups to which the user belongs.

Claim 71 (canceled)

Claim 72 (withdrawn): The portal of claim 67, wherein the selected application is an e-mail application configured to permit transmission and receipt of e-mail limited to the private network exchange.

Claim 73 (withdrawn): The portal of claim 67, wherein the selected application is a document repository application configured to permit entry of and access to one or more documents accessible to a plurality of users within the private network exchange.

Claim 74 (previously presented): The portal of claim 67, wherein the portal is accessible through a web-browser.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The portal of claim 67, wherein the portal comprises a set of web pages.

Claim 76 (withdrawn): The portal of claim 67, wherein the selected application is a document store and forward application configured to allow the user to upload a document to a temporary repository and to specify destinations for the document to one or more other users profiled within the directory service within the private network exchange.

Claim 77 (previously presented): The portal of claim 67, wherein the portal is configured to retrieve information from a public Internet site and to display the retrieved information.

Claim 78 (withdrawn): The portal of claim 67, further comprising an option for the user to place an advertisement as a display within the portal.

Claim 79 (previously presented): The portal of claim 67, wherein the authentication resource is further configured to generate the data.

Claim 80 (previously presented): The portal of claim 79, wherein the data is a user object.

Claim 81 (canceled)

Claim 82 (currently amended): In a portal for a private network exchange having multiple service providers, a method for representing an authorization to access a plurality of applications comprising:

receiving a request to log into the private network exchange ~~through a secure gateway~~;

accessing a profile of a user associated with the request;

authenticating the user associated with the request to a plurality of applications associated with the private network exchange;

receiving a selected application of the plurality of applications; and

sending data representing an authorization of the user to access the plurality of applications to the selected application,

wherein the portal is not visible to the Internet,

wherein the request to log into the private network exchange is received from a first company through a first service provider of the multiple server providers,

wherein the data representing the authorization of the user to access the plurality of applications is sent to the selected application through a second service provider of the multiple service providers, the first service provider being different from the second service provider.

Claim 83 (previously presented): The method of claim 82, wherein the profile includes service authorizations representative of services to which the user is authorized to access and groups to which the user belongs.

Claim 84 (canceled)

Claim 85 (previously presented): The method of claim 82, wherein the portal is accessible through a web-browser.

Claim 86 (previously presented): The method of claim 82, wherein the portal comprises a set of web pages.

Claim 87 (previously presented): The method of claim 82, wherein the portal is configured to retrieve information from a public Internet site and to display the retrieved information.

Claim 88 (withdrawn): The method of claim 82, further comprising determining whether a request to place an advertisement as a display within the portal has been received.

Claim 89 (previously presented): The method of claim 82, further comprising generating the data.

Claim 90 (previously presented): The method of claim 89, wherein the data is a user object.